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tolerate. Briefly, the points observed are, (1) isolation of the infected area; (2) immediate report of cases and instant removal to hospitals; (3) segregation of "contacts;" (4) death of rats; (5) disinfection of premises and effects that have been exposed to the disease; (6) prevention of overcrowding and general sanitary improvement of the infected area.

Twice before Poona has been ravaged by the plague, and each succeeding epidemic, unfortunately, has been worse than the preceding. In February of the present year (1899), the chief plague authority stated that the disease had been stamped out of the city. In March and April the death rate considerably increased; and in July the disease appeared in its worst form, carrying off from 150 to 160 people a day. Normally, the city has a population of 140,000, but in five months it has dwindled to 60,000. But as the population went down the mortality went up, and even at the time of our visit still persisted at the rate of 150 deaths a day. Such a rate of mortality in New York would mean about 10,000 deaths per day, 70,000 per week. Even in Poona enough people die in a month to populate a prosperous American city.

During August there was an average of 100 hospital admissions per day, and over 80 deaths.

The trip to Poona was a rare experience in the horrible. Even to those inured to scenes of suffering and accustomed to the presence of the dead, it left the impression of a dreadful nightmare that weeks of residence in one of God's own countries have not yet removed. The terms *plague stricken*, *pest ridden*, and *pestilence* can only have their full meaning to those who have actually witnessed such scenes, and when we left them it was with a sense of profound gratitude that after all the West was not the East.

*Transfer of Mariel quarantine to the Marine-Hospital Service confirmed.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 27, 1900.

SIR: Referring to your letter of December 27 last in which you request that an order be issued confirming to the United States Marine-Hospital Service the possession of the quarantine station at Mariel, Cuba, which was turned over to the United States Marine-Hospital Service by an order of the military governor of Cuba, dated November 14, 1899, and since which time the station in question has been virtually in charge of that Service, I have the honor to inform you that the military governor of Cuba having reported that there is no objection to placing the lazaretto, or quarantine station, at Mariel, in charge of the United States Marine-Hospital Service during the military occupation of Cuba by the United States, its transfer to your Department for the use of the United States Marine-Hospital Service is hereby confirmed and the military governor of Cuba has been so advised.

Respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT,  
*Secretary of War.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.